

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**
Date: January 7, 2004

Contact: Sara Parsons
Phone: 919/733-5612

GOV. EASLEY PROCLAIMS JANUARY AS NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley has proclaimed the month of January as National Mentoring Month and is urging North Carolinians to participate. The initiative is a public-private effort to emphasize the importance of mentoring, recognize those already involved in mentoring and recruit new mentors for youth in North Carolina and across the United States.

“More than half a million children in North Carolina need or want a caring, responsible adult as a mentor, but only 50,000 of our students are in mentoring programs and many more are on waiting lists,” Easley said. “I encourage those who can provide guidance, stability and direction for young people to become a mentor and help build a stronger future for our state.”

The theme for this year’s observance is “Share What You Know. Mentor a Child.” The campaign will target the 77 million baby boomers in America who will have more time to become mentors as demands from work and family decrease as they grow older.

“Thank Your Mentor Day” will serve as a centerpiece and will be held Tuesday, Jan. 25. On this day, people are urged to thank and honor those who have encouraged and guided them by contacting their mentors directly, becoming mentors themselves or posting a tribute to their mentor on the campaign Web site www.whomentoredyou.org.

The Harvard Mentoring Project of the Harvard School of Public Health and the MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership developed National Mentoring Month and will lead the 2005 national campaign in collaboration with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Points of Light Foundation and other nonprofit groups.

The N.C. Mentoring Partnership is the local affiliate of the National Mentoring Partnership and is a part of the Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service in the Governor’s Office and Communities in Schools of North Carolina. The partnership conducts trainings, manages a statewide public relations campaign to recruit more mentors, strengthens mentoring partnerships and creates new mentoring efforts.

To learn more about the mentoring programs in North Carolina, visit www.volunteernc.org or call the N.C. Mentoring Partnership at 1-800-820-4483.

###